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Dominican Republic: The current outbreak of terrorism is likely to continue for some time.

A group of national policemen killed a member of the Communist Dominican Popular Movement (MPD) on 15 April, and two more bodies were discovered the following night. The national police chief reportedly has executed six Communist prisoners in retaliation for the leftist terrorism, and has indicated further assassinations will be avenged at a ratio of five to one.

Security forces appear somewhat jittery; a truckload of army troops opened fire on a secondary school in Santo Domingo after they thought they had been attacked. Classes at the university in the capital were suspended this week when troops surrounded the school after a terrorist attack nearby.

Senators and deputies of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, the major opposition group, are now boycotting congress in protest against the terrorism and are calling for the ouster of the national police chief.

Although the MPD is assumed to have instigated the current round of terrorism, the party contends that the government is responsible for some of the recent assassinations. Whatever the facts, the probable result will be to force President Balaguer into greater dependence on the military.

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Venezuela: Leaders of the pro-Castro Movement of the Revolutionary Left have called an emergency plenum of the party for this week to discuss the demoralizing effects of the government's pacification program. The legalization of the Communist Party on 26 March has deepened the split within this guerrilla group between those who want to continue guerrilla warfare and those who see an advantage in accepting legal status.

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